



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

BETHLEHEM NEWS JULY 2024

401 West Main Street
West Dundee, IL 60118
PHONE: 847-426-7311

BETHLEHEM'S MISSION...

"To share the Living Water of Jesus Christ with all who thirst."

WORSHIP

5:00 p.m. Saturday - Traditional

(Please note the new Summer Schedule)

9:00 a.m. Sunday - Worship

HOLY COMMUNION - 1st & 3rd Sundays

FELLOWSHIP TIME - 10:15 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - resumes in Sept.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - 10:15 a.m.

VACANCY PASTOR - Reverend Bob Pudell

Pastor's cell: 847-340-5888

Pastor's email:

pastorbob@bethlehemchurchdundee.onmicrosoft.com

WEBSITE - BethlehemDundee.org

E-MAIL - BethChurchDun@aol.com

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Bethlehem is continuing its summer schedule through Labor Day weekend. We are looking forward to worshipping together over the summer and provide some variety in our services to showcase the traditional and contemporary styles of worship. We still have the Saturday evening service at the normal time of 5:00 pm. There is **one** Sunday morning service at **9:00 am** with a short coffee/bible study after the service. **On July 21st, the 9:00 am service will be at BCMC.**

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Bethlehem Call Committee has been working through the process of calling a new pastor to guide our congregation. The Northern Illinois District has outlined steps that we must follow, and those steps require time to coordinate and complete. We are excited to announce that we have reached another major milestone. In June we received a list of candidates from the District. The committee is reviewing the candidates' bios throughout July and scheduling first rounds of interviews in August.

We appreciate your patience and understanding that we are all working to achieve the same goal of finding our next shepherd.

-Bethlehem Call Committee

LEHMAN-WEBER WEDDING INVITATION 🏰💕

Michael David Lehman (son of Scott and Martha Lehman, and grandson of DeLoris Doederlein) will marry Rachael Angela Weber at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, August 3 at Bethlehem.

As many of you have been long-time members of Mike's "church family," the Lehmans would like to extend an invitation to the congregation to attend both the wedding and a short reception afterwards in the fellowship hall. Gifts are not necessary. Please come to congratulate Mike and meet his new bride!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE - July, 2024

In the 4th Commandment, Lutherans find God's command to be loyal to whatever country in which we live. We are so blessed to be living in the United States and also in this part of the United States!

This month, our country will celebrate Independence Day, the birthday of our nation. We thank God that we are granted the freedoms to exercise our religion and practice our faith without government intervention or intrusion. That gift of liberty allows God's Word to have free course, so that it might be proclaimed to the joy and benefit of His chosen people.

But while we cherish that freedom and liberty as citizens of this world, we know that in Christ's kingdom things are much different. In God's kingdom we are not independent, rather, we totally rely on the gracious reign of our Lord. He owes us nothing and yet He gives us everything, not only for this life but also for the life to come.

So, for example, in our congregations, through a majority of votes or consensus we are able to conduct our affairs regarding our finances and property in a democratic fashion, however, we do not have such power when it comes to the teachings of Christ in His Church. In such cases we must submit, even when it does not please the majority of opinions in a congregation. Pastors are called to watch over such things, keeping the family of faith, faithful to Jesus' Word. The Board of Elders in each church watch over pastors and the spiritual life of the congregation for the same reasons.

The Gospel of salvation in Christ Jesus alone provides us freedom from sin's guilt, shame and condemnation. Blood was spilled to secure this freedom too, but it was the blood of God's

holy Son. There are freedoms in both kingdoms of which we are citizens. We continue to learn to distinguish them well, and celebrate them both, in the name of God our heavenly Father.

A happy, safe, and blessed Independence Day (and July) to you, and to your family!

In His grace and peace!
Pastor Bob

VERSE OF THE MONTH FOR JULY (Galatians 5:1):

"For freedom, Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

DEACONS UPDATE

Who are the Deacons and what do they do?

By Gia Winkler

We have several Deacon teams that serve Bethlehem. Some teams serve at our main church and others serve at BCMC. The Deacons serve God and our congregation by ensuring that our services go smoothly. We arrive early, unlock, turn on lights and help prepare the church for worship. We also stay after the service to tidy up and close the church. Sometimes we assist with communion or other tasks. Deacons will make sure that prayer request cards are delivered to the Pastor during the service. We are also available to answer any questions you might have. We have one Deacon, Scott Duff, who is designated for funerals.

In a nutshell, we are at your service. If you are interested in serving our congregation this way, please reach out to Gia 847-890-1503 gjarosado@comcast.net. We are always willing to add to our team! The commitment for serving would be only once every 5 or 6 weeks.

VOTERS' MEETING REPORT

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Congregational Voters Meeting Minutes
– June 9th, 2024

The Council meeting opened at 9:30 am CST.

Pastor- Bob Pudell Opening Prayer

Attendees: Bethlehem Parishioners

Total: 32 (Including Pastor Bob Pudell Vacancy Pastor & Chairman Schmidt)

Secretary: N. Petersen

Update provided by M. Schmidt

- Slate of candidates was presented to the members. The slate of candidates was approved as presented. (see attachment)
- Update of the rehab of the Education wing. The insurance carrier has currently covered damages to date with the exception of the deductible (\$5000). The work is projected to be completed by Rally Sunday.

The members recognized the amount of work done by Martha Lehman and others to save records.

- Rental Update - The Cherished Place space has been open for a tenant since last fall. There is a possible tenant looking at the space—Autism Foundation. A possible rental situation may be explored with Immanuel Lutheran Church during the weekday scenario.
- Insurance Update – The cost of both the premium and the deductible will be increasing significantly.
- Capital Improvement Needs - Roof on the Education wing is getting some age and will need replacement.

Removal of a large tree near BCMC house will be needed.

Floor in Fellowship hall need replacement,

Electrical in BCMC is very old.

- Call Committee Update - Holding monthly meetings;

Request sent to District for list of potential Pastoral

Candidates; Have developed a list of interview questions for potential

Pastoral Candidates: Inspirational Leadership, Outreach,

Preaching/teaching, Versatility able to serve with different styles of services, Relational.

Motion to adjourn meeting: Gia/Scott

Closing Prayer: Pastor Pudell

Respectfully Submitted

Lynn Petersen for (Nancy Petersen)

UPDATE ON THE YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMIT

So far I have heard back from 8 of our local churches. They are all very excited to get this new ministry off the ground. Bethlehem will be taking point on this, so the ministry will be headquartered out of our church. Once we hear back from the remaining invited churches, we will have our first meeting with leaders from each congregation.

Debbie Newman and Gia Winkler are the Bethlehem representatives for this. If you have any ideas you would like to present, please contact one of us.

We are excited to offer this fun new program for our Christian Youth!
Gia

CHOIR DIRECTOR - SINGERS WANTED

Bethlehem is excited that we have a new choir director. We welcome Mary Pieper and her talents to Bethlehem. If you are interested in singing with the choir, please contact Mary or Nancy Petersen.

Choir will be practicing on July 18 and 25 at 10am. All are welcome!

OFFERINGS FOR JUNE

Date	General	Other	Total
6/2/2024	\$4,038.88	\$ 660.00	\$4,698.88
6/9/2024	\$3,815.19	\$ 325.00	\$4,140.19
6/16/2024	\$2,302.00	\$ 380.00	\$2,682.00
6/23/2024	\$2,914.38	\$1,176.12	\$4,090.50
6/30/2024	\$3,244.00	\$ 140.00	\$3,384.00

CHURCH COUNCIL BOARD UPDATE SCHEDULE

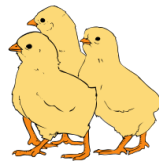
July: Deacons	August: Trustees
September: Treasurer	October: Education
November: Financial Secretary	December: Elders

LWML PICNIC AND BINGO

A BIG "Thank you!" to everyone who attended the Women's Guild Picnic/Pizza/White Elephant Bingo Party. I hope everyone had a fun time—and from the comments, they did. Also, thank you for being my guinea pigs for my little sandwiches. - Martha

WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

All are welcome! Mondays at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



LUTHERAN CHICKS BIBLE STUDY

Lutheran Chicks, a women's Bible study group, will meet on July 9th and July 23rd. We are studying "Women & Identity." The Bible study is from 1 pm to 2 pm. We meet in the library on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. All ladies are welcome.

PILATES "Let's Get Moving"

Classes are offered every Friday at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please arrive 15 minutes early and bring water. We'll be meeting on July 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Everyone is welcome! Experience the fun of exercise and good health! Questions? Linda Bryant 630-338-6515

SUNDAY SCHOOL

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

By Karen Lawson

We are so very grateful to everyone for your continued donations to our Operation Christmas Child mission. The month of JULY means Back-to-School Supplies!! We will be collecting Crayola 16 pack crayons, Crayola colored pencils, and colored markers. All of these items can be found at Walmart or Target for good prices. The feedback we have received is that the children who receive our shoeboxes love to draw, write and color. All of your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you again for your support. 😊

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - July 🎂

7/2 Pam Skibley	7/14 Jeff Frost
7/2 Steve Stayner	7/15 Max Robinson
7/2 Mya Bauer	7/18 Laura Braasch
7/3 Jan Plauck	7/20 Helga Goskowicz
7/5 Kurt Berghahn	7/23 Austin Stennett
7/6 Brooklyn Rissman	7/24 Mary Cameron
7/7 Melody Rissman	7/27 Mary Schroeder
7/9 Mike Post	7/29 Don Pate, Jr.

♥ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ♥

7/1/2024	Jerry & Sandy Tang	63 years
7/3/2008	Marcus & Laura Robinson	16 years
7/18/1964	Glenn & Jan Plauck	60 years
7/27/1996	Jason & Karen Lawson	28 years
7/30/2024	John & Karen Sabella	2 years

JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH



The Elgin Wayside Center

The Elgin Wayside Center is more than a homeless shelter. It's a place where struggling and broken men, women and children, and the church, can connect. Here, guests come to the Center for food, clothing, and a place to rest, but receive much more!

Like a temporary home, the Center offers what most people take for granted – free meals, safe daytime shelter, laundry services, showers, and individual lockers to keep personal items secure, computers to connect with loved ones, apply for work, or collaborative services.

Multiple Bible studies, classes, and the support of volunteers provide healthy relationships and a fresh perspective. Moreover, the Center also collaborates with many area organizations, churches, and ministries so that people in need can find additional resources and support. They can also choose to access Wayside's transitional housing and recovery programs.

Want to serve? We provide great volunteer opportunities in Elgin. Clothing and food donations are also gladly accepted. If you have any questions, please call 847-695-4405.

~ H.I.S. "Hearts in Service" Ministry/Missions

BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 🎄

How time flies, it is only 5 months until our Christmas Bazaar held on the first weekend in December at the time of Dickens In Dundee. Plans are already being made and our handmade crafts have to be started. A wide variety of handmade crafts is necessary to have a successful event. Some crafters have already been hard at work with the making of tree ornaments, baby burp cloths and bibs, dish cloths and scrubbies, a hand knit dog who will be selling dog treats and dog toys, a large comfort chicken will be selling her flock of little chickens and a cute gray knit cat will be there selling cat toys. Also there is a selection of lap afghans and quilts. Even a small selection of house plants will be available.

However, we will NEED more crafted items to fill our tables. All proceeds from the Bazaar will go to Women's Guild for their many missions they support both at home and away.

If you have any questions, please contact either Dorothy Pigors by phone or text at 224-489-3000, Denise Korosec at 847-828-0391, or Cindy Weinert at 847-217-5674.

Our goal is to make this the best event ever!!

HOSPITALITY HOUSE UPDATE

Thank You for your continued support with this ministry. **It is truly God's Love in Action.**

We have been hard at work putting the final touches on the Hospitality House. The granite counter tops were installed on June 21st. This allowed us to finally complete the kitchen.



HOSPITALITY HOUSE UPDATE - continued

Since David's double lung transplant he has been in the ICU for 54 days. David has gone into kidney failure and is starting dialysis. A week ago he had surgery on his diaphragm because it wasn't working properly. The surgery was not successful because his diaphragm was paralyzed. In an upcoming surgery, they will be inserting a GI tube for feeding so they can put him on a Bipap machine as they wean him off the ventilator. In the upcoming weeks, David will be moved to a longer-term care facility. His recovery is going to be a long road.

The family is going stir crazy in the hotel. The kids are getting more edgy and fighting more than usual. It is difficult to constrain the pent up energy when there is not much to do. Missy (15) who has epilepsy had a particularly difficult week with more frequent seizures. The hotel is being renovated and the family will have to move to a different floor for the second time.

Prayer Requests:

- Thank the Lord for his providence and care for David and his family in this trying situation.
- Thank the Lord for the volunteers and donors who have stepped up to support Faith Congregation in this new ministry as they prepare the house to serve this family and others in the future.
- Thank the Lord for helping us to overcome the obstacles that have slowed things down.
- Pray for guidance of the doctors and medical team who are caring for David.
- Pray that according to the Lord's will David's diaphragm starts to work again and is healed.
- Pray that the upcoming medical procedures and the move to the longer term care facility go smoothly and are successful.

- Pray that through all this God draws David, Paige and the family closer to him and strengthens them, filling them with peace and joy as they lean on and trust Jesus through all this.
- Pray for calm and peace for the children.
- Pray for Calm of the stress that causes problems sleeping, leading to anxiety or depression, changes in moods all of which triggers more seizures.
- Pray for Paige and her daughter Brooklyn giving them peace and comfort as they care for the children.
- Pray that the Lord removes the barriers as we finish the work on the house and we can get the occupancy permit for the family to move into the house. The 28th of June the family will have been living in the hotel for 3 months.
- Pray that the Lord provides the financial resources to cover the cost of the hotel stay for the family. It costs \$200 a night and we have at least 15 more nights if we can move the family into the house by June 29th.

The family also has an ongoing need for transportation for Paige. If you could drive to Chicago or help with local trips (shopping & appointments), or if you would like to donate or support this mission, please reach out to Gia Winkler.

847-890-1503 gjarosado@comcast.net

